



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Lands and Water

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLEAR VISION FOR FUTURE OF FORESTRY INDUSTRY

The NSW Government has released the *NSW Forestry Industry Roadmap*, a strategic action plan to build a stronger, more competitive and ecologically sustainable forestry industry.

Minister for Primary Industries Niall Blair said the *Forestry Industry Roadmap* represents a clear statement from the NSW Government that it supports the NSW forestry industry, which is critical for many towns in regional NSW, and the construction of new homes in Sydney.

“Our forestry industry is vibrant and sustainable – whether it’s pine for new homes or paper produced from plantations at Tumut or Oberon, or the beautiful hardwood timber floorboards sourced from renewable native forests at Lismore and Eden,” Mr Blair said.

“Investment decisions in the forestry industry are made over long timeframes – that’s why it’s critical that we work with industry on a long-term roadmap for growth and ecological sustainability.

“The *Roadmap* provides a vehicle to deal with legacy issues of the past, while also supporting industry to invest in research and development, technologies and improvements to develop innovative new products and capitalise on new commercial opportunities.”

The *Roadmap* includes strategic actions around four key pillars – regulatory modernisation, balancing supply and demand, improving community understanding and confidence, and industry innovation and new markets.

The NSW forestry industry has operated for more than 100 years and, including wood and paper manufacturing, employs more than 22,000 people.

It is worth \$2.4 billion, with the softwood plantation sector valued at \$1.9 billion, and the native forestry sector valued at \$465 million.

Sydney’s population is set to increase to 5.86 million by 2031, which means more than 660,000 new homes will need to be built, with locally sourced timber a primary building construction material.

The *Roadmap* will help the NSW Government achieve its objective of creating 150,000 new jobs, 30,000 of which will be in regional NSW, and increase the value of primary industries by 30 per cent by 2020.

To view the *Roadmap*, or for more information, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/info/forestry-roadmap.

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